

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /122 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:JCM
APPROVED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ
L/EA:PNORTON
EA/J:SECTON
EA/PRCM:JAUBERT
EA/ROC:HENGLEBRECHT

-----151805Z 011139 /45

R 151454Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111561

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: (A) STATE 103531, (B) SEOUL 3805 (NOTAL).

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1. IN THE PAST THE PRC HAS MADE CLAIM TO NEARLY ALL OF
THE NORTHEAST ASIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. IT HAS ALSO STATED,
AS IT DID TO JAPANESE RECENTLY, THAT IT MUST BE
INVOLVED IN ANY SHELF DEMARCATION.

2. IN STATEMENT TO APRIL, 1974, COLOMBO ECAFE CONFERENCE,
PRC SAID, INTER ALIA, "DIVISION OF JURISDICTION OF THE

CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN CHINA AND COUNTRIES BORDERING ON OR FACING HER SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED THROUGH CONSULTATIONS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING. TO ONE-SIDEDLY MARK OFF A LARGE AREA OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AS A SO-CALLED 'JOINT DEVELOPMENT ZONE' BEHIND CHINA'S BACK IS AN INFRINGEMENT ON CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT. ANYONE WHO ARBITRARILY CARRIES OUT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES ARISING THEREFROM;.

3. WHILE PRC HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS ON EXTENT OF ITS ACTUAL CLAIMS, WE BELIEVE IT DOES CLAIM SOCIAL-TEXACO AND KOAM AREAS IN QUESTION, HOWEVER ILL FOUNDED SUCH A CLAIM MAY BE. A JANUARY, 1975, INR STUDY (BEING POUCHED), NOTED THAT PRC MIGHT CLAIM SHELF AT LEAST TO 100 FATHOM LINE, WHICH APPEARS TO BISECT JOINT DEVELOPMENT AREA. WE PRESUME ROK COULD MAKE SIMILAR CLAIM. IF IT HAD CAPABILITY TO DRILL IN DEEPER WATERS, PRC MIGHT PLAUSIBLY CLAIM EVEN BROADER AREA. AT THE VERY LEAST, PRC MAY BE CLAIMING A RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN OVERALL DEMARCATION OF EAST CHINA SEA SHELF AND NOT TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT PART OF THAT SHELF CO-OPTED BY OTHER CLAIMANTS.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE AND OF ROC CLAIM (TAIPEI 2702) WE BELIEVE WE MUST REGARD JOINT DEVELOPMENT AREA AS BEING IN DISPUTE EVEN IF JAPANESE COMPLETE RATIFICATION OF SHELF AGREEMENTS. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, VICE PRESIDENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF, CLAIMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE111561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PRMAYHEW:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P800020-1811, D770172-1053
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabvlq.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 110991, 77 STATE 103531, 77 SEOUL 3805
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2512693
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIAN-RHODESIAN SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ENRG, PLOS, US, RH, ZA, SF, KS, JA, CH, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: LUSAKA LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67364693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009